of Credit already opened by banks in the erstwhile Soviet Union and advised to the Indian exporters up to 31st December, 1991.

Fall in the Export of Traditional Items

691. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarded Question 103 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th April, 1992 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that our export performance has been steadily declining in respect of all traditional items ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) what are the basic reasons for such decline ;

(d) what efforts have been made and results achieved by Government in respect of export of non-traditional engineering and other finished goods since the last financial year ; and

(e) what effective steps are being taken by Government to boost the exports and to make good the loss of market suffered since the changes in former Soviet Union and the East European countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) No. Sir. The export of traditional goods has increased from Rs. 6278 crores in 1988-89 to Rs. 7634 crores in 1989-90 and Rs. 9256 crores in 1990-91. The export of these items further increased to Rs. 10090 crores during the first ten months (April—January) of 1991-92.

(d) and (e) Several changes in trade policy were introduced since July, 1991 aimed at strengthening export incentives, eliminating a substantial volume of import licensing and rationalising the import tariff structure. In the Budget for 1992-93, rupee was made partially convertible to encourage generation of foreign exchange and compress imports through the price mechanism by making them dearer. These have been further consolidated in the new Export-Import Policy announced on 31st March, 1992, which, *inter-alia*, aims to promote the productivity, modernisation and competitiveness of Indian Industry and thereby to enhence its export capabilities. Besides, the Government has taken other steps which include reducing controls through licensing, simplification of procedures for export, activisation of Board of Trade, bilateral discussions with select countries, interaction with national organisations of Trade and Industry, etc. In additon, the Government has opened a dialogue with the newly formed Republic of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and signed bilateral agreements with a number of them already.

मध्य प्रदेश दूरसंचार सर्किल द्वारा अनुवादक ग्रेड-III के लिए प्रतियोगी परीक्षा का आयोजन

692. **श्री गुफरान आजम** : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या मध्य प्रदेश दूरसंचार सर्किल ने कुछ समय पहले अपने कुछ अधीनस्थ कार्यालयों में अनुवादक ग्रेड-III के पदों पर भर्ती हेतु एक प्रतियोगी परीक्षा का आयोजन किया था ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो यह परीक्षा कब आयोजित की गयी थी;

(ग) क्या इस परीक्षा का परिणाम घोषित कर दिया गया है;

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो विलम्ब के क्या कारण हैं;

(ङ) सफल उम्मीदवारों को कब तक नियुक्ति पत्र भेज दिये जाने की संभावना है; और

(च) मध्य प्रदेश सर्किल में ऐसे अनुवादकों के कितने पद खाली हैं और ये पद किस तारीख से खाली पड़े हैं ?

संचार मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री पी० वी० रंगैया नायडू) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) परीक्षा 16 फरवरी, 1991 को आयोजित की गई ।